

Operation ID

Operation Identification

A nation-wide effort of law enforcement agencies and the citizens and businesses they serve. The goal is to reduce property theft, as well as, aid in recovery of stolen property through an identification system. Marking your possessions with an identifying number is an effective method of deterring theft. Thieves find it more difficult to dispose of stolen articles that can be traced through an owner's personal ID number. If caught with marked item, the thief can be convicted. The marked items can also be returned to the rightful owner.

Selecting a Proper Identification Number

Your driver license number with state abbreviation provides an instantly recognizable number to law enforcement agencies nation-wide. If you are a non-driver, contact your state DMV to see if an ID number can be issued to you. **NEVER USE YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER AS AN IDENTIFYING NUMBER FOR ANY REASON.**

Example: Number and state abbreviation "NC ***"**

If you sell an item do not "*scratch out*" your ID number, simply draw one line through it. This way the item can still be identified down the road and it does not appear to law enforcement that the number has been "altered."

Mark Your Property

- Mark all of your valuable possessions with an electric engraver, an inscriber pen, an infrared indelible security marker, or other marking pen. Practice using the engraver on scrap material before marking your property.
- The electric engraver can be used on metal, wood, or hard plastic.

Your personal ID number should be marked on all removable parts in at least two places: one visible and one hidden.

- Some items cannot be engraved and have no model and/or serial number, such as antiques, furs, jewelry, musical instruments, fine art, and silver. It is suggested that such items be marked with infrared indelible markers and photographed/videotaped for size and identification purposes. When photographing or videotaping property, make sure that you place an item in the picture, such as a ruler or dollar bill, to establish scale.

Inventory Forms

It is important that you keep records of all items you engrave in case of loss.

Which Items Should You Engrave?

You should mark and record anything of value that a burglar (or two) could conceivably carry away. Use the following checklist as a guideline:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Bicycles | • Power Tools | • Binoculars |
| • Stereo Systems | • Cameras | • Televisions |
| • Computers | • CD/DVD players | • VCR's |
| • Hand Tools | • Appliances | • Recreation Equipment |
| • Electronics | • Camcorders | • Video Game Equipment |
| • Business Machines | • GUNS THAT HAVE NO SERIAL NUMBER | |

What about items that can't be engraved?

Don't ignore these items. In the case of jewelry, silver, antiques that can't or shouldn't be marked, photograph or videotape them. When photographing items, place a ruler or dollar bill in the frame for scaling purposes. Store your photographs or video tapes in a safety deposit box or fireproof safe.